

The
BANDWAGON

C. H. S.

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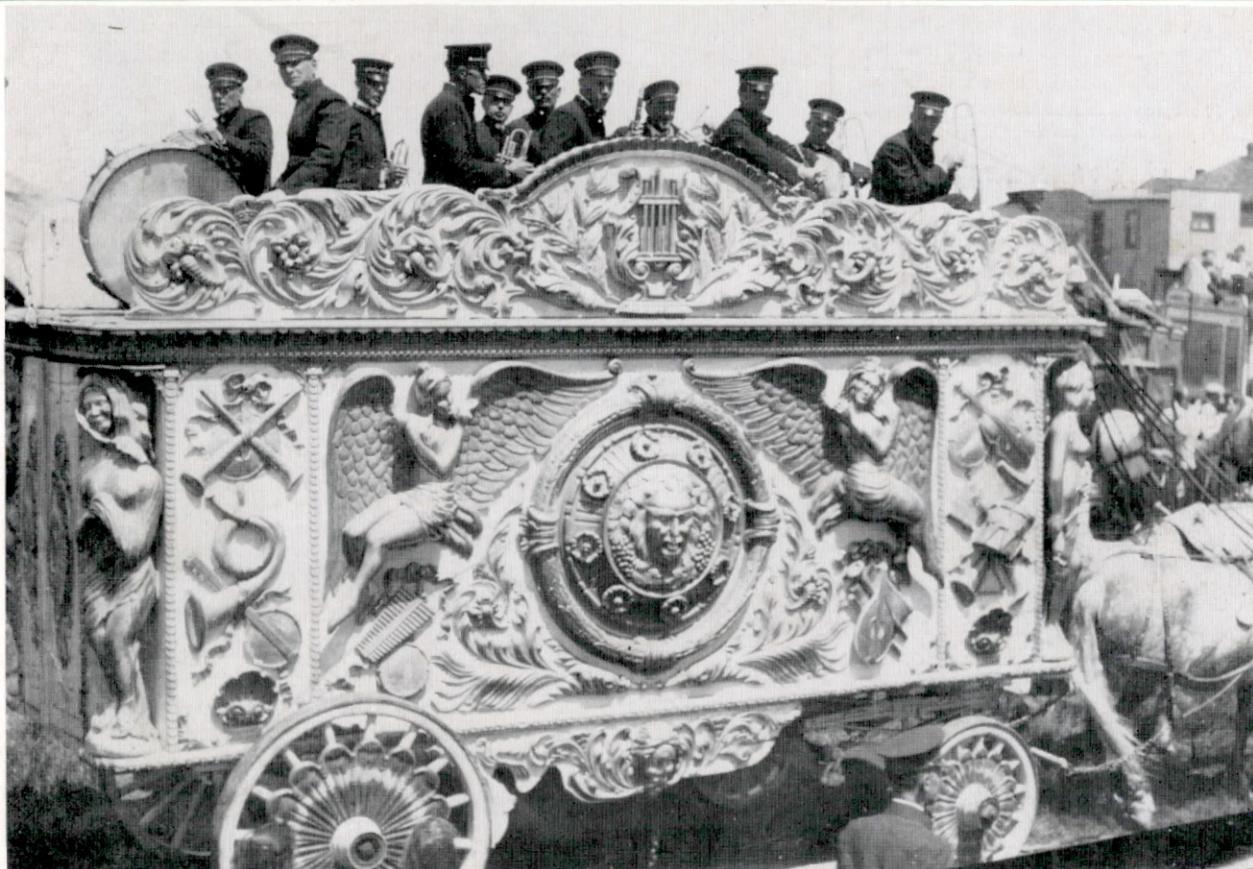


Photo from Negative Owned by the late A. Morton Smith

No. 1 Bandwagon, Howes Great London Circus, Season 1921

————— *The Circusiana Magazine* —————

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EDITORIAL

I hope you will like the NEW LOOK of the Bandwagon. We think we can give you more "stuff" to sink your teeth in. It has taken a great deal of thought and effort on the parts of several people to make this change, so we hope you will let us know how you feel about it. We are not only interested in quantity, but hope that the quality will improve. More enjoyment will be gotten out of the contents if we will use more pictures. We would like to have cuts, mats and prints with accompanying stories, so that pictures can be interspersed through the magazine, and not just on the cover. We cannot reproduce from newspaper clippings. Perhaps you have a picture which you would like to have identified—send it in, and we will see if we can get some help for you.

The Spring circus season is in full swing, and we hope that all over the country, you have enjoyed your first outdoor show, and are making plans to see others in the coming weeks.

Bob and I have been gratified by recent publicity in the local press and the response to it. We find that there are circus enthusiasts in all walks of life, and we have obtained some material from local people and also some gifts of old circus items. The interest in the Circus has not died, at least, in this segment of the middle west.

MILLS BROS. CIRCUS OPENS

Mills Bros. Circus opened, Saturday April 20, in Jefferson, Ohio. All who attended were quite impressed with the weather—for it was a fine day—for the first time in many a year.

The circus performance was up to the usual standard of the Mills Bros. Gone are the English girls this year, but they are well replaced with a group of Mexicans, as well as the wives of a number of the performers and bosses. Several new acts are in the performance—in fact there are very few holdovers.

The usual opening banquet was held, at the Jefferson High School cafeteria. Food was prepared and served by the Band Boosters, and it was a meal to be long remembered. One of the outstanding, and well deserved awards made at the banquet, was a plaque presented by Mr. Haas of the insurance company, telling that Mills Bros. Circus has gone a number of years with no accidents to anyone.

Members of the Circus Historical Society who were present, included Ray Markle, Floyd McClintock, Norman Senhauser, Ivan Mayers, Myron Gande, Tom MacInnes, Joseph Beasten, John Boyle, Floyd Gettinger, Agnes King, Robert King, as well as a number of fans belonging to C.F.A. The Walter L. Main Tent of C.F.A. entertained the nite before the opening, at the Warren Hotel in Ashland, where they presented an American Flag to Jack Mills, to be flown from the peak of the Big Top.

ITEMS FROM BARABOO

Courtesy of Bill Kasiska

Mrs. Walter Schacht (nee Gladys Hocum), 58, passed away Feb. 1957, at St. Mary's-Ringling Hospital, Baraboo, after she suffered a stroke the preceding day while walking downtown. She was the daughter of the late E. V. Hocum and Maude Gollmar, widely known circus equestrians, and was a member of the Hocum Troupe until 1918. Surviving Mrs. Schacht are her husband, one daughter, Virginia (Mrs. Lester Richardson), one son, Walter, Jr., one brother, Ray Hocum, a sister, Mrs. Lucille Walter, and three grandchildren. Funeral rites were held at Hanson Funeral Chapel and interment was in the Walnut Hill Cemetery, Baraboo, Feb. 22.

Fred C. Gollmar, the only surviving brother of the Gollmar Bros. Show, observed his 90th birthday here March 9. He is in fairly good condition—except for arthritis.

Ferd C. E. Welk, aged 84, former Ringling trouper and a member of the C. H. S. and C. F. A., is soon to enter the Wisconsin General Hospital, Madison for observation and possible surgery.

Hagen Bros. Circus is contracted into Baraboo May 29 under the auspices of the Vets of Foreign Wars. Show plays Janesville, the 27th, Madison the 28th.

Circus Wagon History File

By Joseph T. Bradbury

With this issue of Bandwagon a new series of short articles on the history of old circus bandwagons, tableaus, and calliopes is begun. Each article will deal with one particular wagon. It is my intention not to dwell on the more noted wagons, most of which are now in museums, and are quite familiar to circus fans, but to attempt to throw a little light on some of the old parade wagons that are not too well known. Anyone knows that an accurate history of many of these old wagons is a most difficult thing to obtain. In these articles there will be much "missing information", some inaccuracies of course, but I hope not too much misinformation. I shall not attempt to guess, but will from time to time give my theory and the consensus of opinion of other wagon historians, when definite information is not known. What is fact shall be so stated, and what is just theory will also be so stated. It is not my intention to present a smooth reading narrative just for the sake of making a good story without regard for fact, as is the case with so many of the current "circus books" and stories on the market today. All readers of this publication are cordially invite to participate in these wagon history discussions. If you disagree with my observations, or can add some facts not mentioned, please write to the editor giving your information so it can be published in connection with these articles.

The wagon we will discuss in this first column is the one commonly referred to as the Howes Great London 1921 Bandwagon No. 1, for identification purposes. The cover illustration shows the wagon as it appeared on the Howes Great London Circus in 1921.

This wagon, which is one of my favorites, was heavily built, with splendid carvings featuring winged angles, musical instruments, and corner statues.

The wagon was built in the winter of 1909-10 by the Leonhardt Wagon Works of Baltimore, Md., for the Norris and Rowe Circus. The carvings were done by Spanjers. This wagon was one of a set of four built and delivered to Norris & Rowe by Leonhardt in the early spring of 1910.

Unfortunately the Norris & Rowe show was in financial difficulty and didn't last but a few weeks after opening the 1910 season. The entire property was sent to Peru, Ind. for sale. The first sale which took place in June 1910 was thrown out by the courts, and a later sale was held in August of that year. Most of the property was purchased by Ben Wallace and William P. Hall. Hall got this particular wagon along with some others of the same set and shipped them to his farm at Lancaster, Mo.

In 1911 and 1912 the wagon was stored at the Hall Farm, and in the early

spring of 1913 was sold to the Miller Bros. and Arlington's 101 Ranch Wild West Show.

For the seasons 1913, 1914, 1915, and 1916 the wagon was on the 101 Ranch Wild West Show. In 1917 the 101 property became known as the Jess Willard-Buffalo Bill Wild West Show and toured the 1917 season. Show was owned by Edward Arlington and Jess Willard. After the season closed the show property was stored for several months in Jacksonville, Fla. In 1918 all the Willard show property, including this wagon, was purchased by the Horne Zoological Arena Co. and sent to their place in Kansas City, Mo. I feel sure the wagon sat out the 1918 season in storage. Then it was sold to Fred Buchanan and placed on his Yankee Robinson Circus for the 1919 and 1920 seasons. I am not positive that the wagon was actually on the Yank show other than the 1920 season, but feel reasonably sure it was there also in 1919.

The Yankee Robinson Circus was purchased by Jerry Mugivan and Bert Bowers in the fall of 1920 and upon conclusion of the season the property was sent to the Hall Farm in Lancaster, Mo. Mugivan and Bowers also sent their 15 car Howes Great London Circus that had toured the 1920 season to the Hall Farm to winter. From the best equipment of the two shows a very fine 25 car show called the Howes Great London Circus was framed for the 1921 season. This wagon went along as the No. 1 bandwagon.

In 1922 the Howe show title was changed to Gollmar Bros. Circus. Some of the printed matter of the show referred to the title as Gollmar Bros. and Yankee Robinson Combined Circus. During the winter of 1921-22 the wagon's outside type sunburst wheels were removed and were replaced by inside type sunbursts, the most common type of wheel of that period.

In 1922 Mugivan and Bowers had operated four circuses, Sells-Floto, Hagenbeck-Wallace, John Robinson's, and Gollmar Bros. For 1923 they cut down operations to three. The best equipment of the 1922 John Robinson Circus and the Gollmar Bros. Circus went into a show called John Robinson Circus for the 1923 season. The Gollmar equipment predominated the new show. This wagon was the No. 1 bandwagon on the John Robinson Circus in both 1923 and 1924.

In 1925 the Mugivan and Bowers units went out intending not to give a street parade, however, due to drop in business the parade was reinstated in May. I have never been positive that this wagon was used on the John Robinson Circus in 1925 but I believe that it was.

A story in the Billboard in May 1925 mentions the parade being put back on the Mugivan and Bowers shows and states the shows were all equipped to parade if necessary when they went out, and needed only to send to Peru for wardrobe. The same story mentioned the fact that it wasn't definite if the steam calliopes would be sent from Peru to the three shows or if they would just use the air calliopes only in the parade as they had all taken the air callies when they went on the road for the season. A later story says that the steam calliopes were shipped from Peru. From these stories I gather that the 1925 parades were complete in every detail, and assume this wagon was used still as the No. 1 bandwagon on the John Robinson Circus.

After the 1925 season this wagon along with the steam calliope that had had the same history since the 1920 season vanishes from Peru. Just what happened to the wagon I am at loss to say. I am firmly convinced it didn't go to another circus or carnival or surely we would have some knowledge of it. The best theory I have heard is that it was destroyed in a fire at Peru about 1926. One of the John Robinson barns burned at Peru about 1926, and there was a later fire the winter of 1929-30, and our best guess is that one of these two fires destroyed the wagon. It had certainly disappeared from Peru before the first of the great wagon burnings took place about 1939.

LOW BRIDGE AND A GIRAFFE

Reprinted from *Chesapeake & Ohio Railway magazine "TRACKS"* (April 1953).
(Sent in by A. Robert Hall)

An unusual problem in railroading occurred several years ago when a circus train was delayed by a low bridge and a giraffe. The animal's head, poking through the top of his special crate-car, was three inches too high for the bridge. Trainmen pondered the problem, while circus officials insisted that a headless giraffe would be worse than useless for exhibition purposes.

The next show town was fifty miles up the line, and something had to be done promptly or the performance would not open at the advertised time. The baffled conductor phoned headquarters. The freight clearance expert was called in. He thought the matter over for about thirty seconds, then advised, "Drop a carrot into the giraffe's cage."

The carrot was dropped. The giraffe ducked down to get it. The engineer jerked the throttle and the train went under the bridge.

The show opened on time.

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

The following appeared in the January 15, 1955 issue of "The Good Samaritan," a publication put out by the Bethany Homes, the Bethany Home for men being in Millen, Georgia. It was sent to us in the fall of 1956, by Don Cavilla himself.

"Mr. Cavilla came to us on December 14, 1955. After convalescence in his room for a few days from his trip from Albany, Georgia, he has been active in coming out for his meals regularly.

"Mr. Cavilla was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on January 6, 1849, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Cavilla. He followed in the footsteps of his father before him, graduating from the University of South Carolina Medical School set up practice in Gastonia, Dr. Cavilla saw some acrobats perform one afternoon, and made the boast he could do everything they could and more. That night Dr. Cavilla opened in a blackface acrobatic act and thereafter traded the 'Doctor' for 'Mister.' This was much against his father's and mother's will. His mother, Irene, was the youngest sister of the great South Carolina statesman, John C. Calhoun.

"The same year Mr. Cavilla joined the original P. T. Barnum Circus as one of the original twenty-five clowns used by the great showman. That was the beginning of his 81 year career as a clown and aerial acrobat. He was an active performer until the age of 103. The Big Top has been Mr. Cavilla's life—his heartaches—his happiest moments.

"In 1888, Mr. Cavilla witnessed a great tragedy when his bride-to-be, Miss Adeli Gaffney, went into the cage of six of her pet tigers and they became vicious and attacked her. Mr. Cavilla went into the cage fearless and brought her out, and she died in his arms. This was one of the saddest experiences in the life of Mr. Cavilla.

"Later Mr. Cavilla married Miss Clara Bottcher of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and had four children. His two daughters followed the medical profession at their father's wish.

"Mr. Cavilla's first sight of blood was not in medical college but in the Civil War, when he entered on the side of his native south as a dispatch runner under General Beauregard. He was 13 years old. Later he was transferred to General Pickett's army and remained with that outfit until the close of the war. In addition to his own part in the Civil War he has felt the effects of four more wars; the Spanish-American, the trouble on the Mexican border, the World Wars One and Two.

"Mr. Cavilla's fabulous career under the big top stretches over eight decades and took him around the world several times. He said he learned the advice for long life from a 136 year old Chinese philosopher on a visit to Canton, China, in 1900. He recalled he told the venerable Chinese sage that he had "a

mania for living" and desired to attain a greater age than his father, who later died at 104. The philosopher offered his counsel, but at the cost of the Chinese equivalent of \$400. Mr. Cavilla said he forked over the sum, and was surprised to hear the simple reply: "Mind your own business." "But, it's been good advice," he declared.

"Mr. Cavilla has suffered two serious accidents. The first came in Richmond, Virginia, in 1930. He was 81 then and still in show business. The other one was also in Virginia at the age of 103. He was brought to Albany shortly afterwards by an old friend who found him a place to live. Since then, he has delighted school children all over southwest Georgia with his clown antics and facial contortions."

GEORGE BRINTON BEAL DIES

From *The Boston Daily Globe*,
April 10, 1957

George Brinton Beal, former C. H. S. member, and the editor of the *Call of the Calliope*, and also known as "Beal of Boston" throughout the circus world, died April 9 in the Anna Jaques Hospital. He would have been 70 on April 15.

A native of Lawrence, for 40 years he was feature writer and an editor of the *Boston Sunday Post*. He had gained distinction as the only man ever to travel as a guest of the circuses, going across the country with seven circus companies during vacations.

He published a book of circus lore and memoirs, "Through the Back Door of the Circus," in 1938. For many years he had the honor of standing next to the ringmaster in the center ring, and receiving the whistle which started the performance.

Circuses became his hobby when he was introduced to behind-the-scenes activities by a press agent when he was an assistant editor of the *Worchester Gazette*. Before that, during education in the Lawrence schools, he started newspaper work as high school correspondent for the *Lawrence Sun*.

For 40 years he had lived at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Austin W. Stowell at 82 High St. He never married. For several years, he had been retired.

Some of his collected circus pictures and mementoes are in the theatre section of Harvard's Widener Library. Another section occupies an entire room at Emerson College's theatre library.

Beal conducted classes in dramatic criticism at Emerson for six years. He was a graduate of Prof. George P. Baker's "47 Workshop" at Harvard, and wrote and produced programs for stage and radio.

He leaves a sister, Mrs. Frank Lenane of Salem, N. H.

Services will be at 2 p. m. Thursday at the McKinney funeral home, 124 High St. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery.

A. MORTON SMITH DIES

A. Morton Smith of Gainesville died on April 8th at Gainesville. He was a native son having been born in Gainesville in 1903. He was, at the time of his death, editor of the Gainesville Register. Burial was in Gainesville, and C. H. S. was represented by Wm. T. Randolph. He is survived by his wife and two sons. The following is reprinted from the Gainesville Daily Register.

When Morton Smith was a lad in short trousers, he displayed a love for the circus, although then never having witnessed such a tented organization. With childish ingenuity, he erected a tiny "big top" under which were a few animal toys. Neighborhood children paid admission with buttons, marbles, etc.

As he grew older, the circus became one of the interesting phases of his leisure hours.

It was not surprising, therefore, when in 1924, in cooperation with seven other young men he founded the Gainesville Little Theatre and out of it grew the Little Theatre Mammoth Three-Ring circus in 1929, that became the Gainesville Community circus. He was equestrian director and announcer for the circus the first few years, and was program director for the 25 years he was active with the group.

With his uncanny knowledge of circus lore and circus management (although he had never been with a professional show), the home town enterprise was for several years the third largest circus in the nation, exceeded only by Ringling-Barnum and Bailey, and the Clyde Beatty circuses. Gainesville became known in many parts of the English-speaking world because of this unique amateur entertainment and Smith was recognized in a Christmas issue of *Billboard* magazine, as perhaps the most prolific and authentic writer of circus lore in the United States, it being noted this in spite of no professional experience.

His library of circus posters, programs, books and other historical mementoes of the circus profession, is recognized as among the most complete in the nation.

His circus connections prompted him in 1931 to join the Circus Fans of America, an exclusive group limited to 1000 members, devoted to aiding the welfare of the tented enterprises. The association held its annual convention in Gainesville in 1952, on which occasion Smith was elected president. He presided at the 1953 convention in Wichita, Kans. He also was a member of the Circus Historical association.

LA STRADA (THE ROAD)

Reported by John Harrop, Chicago

This fine Italian film has a circus background with a small show. It has been showing in Chicago (February, 1957) at the World Playhouse, 410 South Michigan. If you have a chance to see this picture do so, you will find it interesting and well worth while.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World

Official Program for Dayton, Ohio, Aug 29; Richmond, Indiana, Aug. 30;
Hamilton, Ohio, Aug. 31, 1907.

Note—An exhibition, the intention of which is to educate the spectator, through the medium of animated pictures, in the picturesque life on the Western American Plains in the days just past, showing primitive horsemen who have attained fame; spiced with their counterparts of modern military horsemanship, all combined in an evening's entertainment, rendering the reading of books or the viewing of works of sculptors and artists on these subjects more easily comprehended and enjoyed in years to come. It is especially instructive to the untravelled and to the rising generation to see authenticated, genuine people of the different nations and races in their characteristic costumes before they have passed away and are left as legacies to the future only through art and history. The principal incidents and episodes have additional interest from having been identified with the life of Colonel W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill).

- 1—OVERTURE. Star-spangled Banner—Cowboy Band, Wm. Sweeney, Leader.
- 2—GRAND REVIEW. Introducing Rough Riders of the world, genuine Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, Cowboys, Cossacks, Mexicans, Scouts and Guides, veteran members of the United States Cavalry, a group of Western Girl roughriders, and a detachment of colorguards, soldiers of the armies of America, England, Germany, Japan, Russia, Arabia and Mexico.
- 3—RACES OF RACES. Race between a Cowboy, Cossack, Mexican, Arab and Indian on Mexican, Broncho, Indian and Arabian horses. Attention is directed to the different seats in saddle by the various riders.
- 4—U. S. ARTILLERY DRILL. Showing the old muzzle-loading methods. The guns used are relics of the Civil War.
- 5—PONY EXPRESS. A former Pony Express rider will show how telegrams of the Republic were distributed and carried across the continent, previous to the building of telegraphs and railways.
- 6—EMIGRANT TRAIN. Illustrating a prairie Emigrant train crossing the plains. It is attacked by marauding Indians and they are repulsed by the scouts and cowboys. While in camp there will be a quadrille on horseback and other campfire amusements.
- 7—ARABS AND JAPANESE. In various feats of agility.
- 8—AN ATTACK ON THE DEADWOOD STAGE-COACH BY INDIANS. Repulse of the Indians and rescue of the stage, passengers and mail by cowboys and scouts.
- 9—COL. W. F. CODY. The original BUFFALO BILL, the last of the great scouts, the first to conceive, originate and produce this class of realistic entertainment. He will give an Exhibition of Expert Shooting from horseback, while galloping around the arena.
- 10—THE BATTLE OF SUMMIT SPRINGS. One of the deciding conflicts in Indian warfare was fought on July 11, 1869, in eastern Colorado near the border line of Nebraska. The command was composed of the Fifth United States Cavalry and Pawnee scouts under the command of General E. A. Carr of the United States Army. Buffalo Bill was chief of General Carr's scouts and guide. The Indians were renegades from the tribes of Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, banded together under the leadership of Tall Bull, and were known as "The Dog Soldiers." These Indians had been murdering and committing depredations on the borders of Kansas and Nebraska, and this command had been sent to discover and annihilate them if possible. After several days' scouting, Buffalo Bill found the Indian trail which the command at once followed, and after continuing for more than 200 miles, Buffalo Bill located the Indian camp, and in a spirited assault the forces under General Carr completely routed Tall Bull and his "Dog Soldiers," capturing their entire village, killing many of the warriors and capturing the Indian women and children. They also rescued two white women which the Indians held as prisoners. During the engagement, Buffalo Bill shot and killed the Indian Chief Tall Bull.
- 11—DEVLIN ZOUAVES. In manual of arms, lightning drills, finishing with an exhibition of wall-scaling, showing the adaptability of Citizen-soldiery in warfare.
- 12—A GROUP OF MEXICANS from Old Mexico will illustrate the use of the lasso.
- 13—VETERANS FROM THE SIXTH United States Cavalry in military exercises and exhibitions of athletic sports and horsemanship on western range horses.
- 14—JOHNNY BAKER. The celebrated American Marksman.
- 15—THE GREAT TRAIN HOLD-UP AND BANDIT HUNTERS OF THE UNION PACIFIC will be a scene representing a train hold-up in the Western wilds. The bandits stop the train, uncouple the engine from the coaches, rob the express car and blow open the safe. Meanwhile the passengers are lined up and despoiled of their valuables. The scene ends with the arrival of the Bandit Hunters of the Union Pacific, who capture or kill the robbers.
- 16—INDIAN BOYS' RACE. Racing by Indian boys on bareback ponies.
- 17—COWBOYS' FUN. Picking objects from the ground, lassoing, and riding wild horses.
- 18—COSSACKS FROM THE CAUCASUS OF RUSSIA. In feats of horsemanship.
- 19—A HOLIDAY AT "T-E" RANCH IN WYOMING. The final number on our programme will be a holiday at T-E ranch, the home of Buffalo Bill. The frontiersmen and cowboys have assembled for an afternoon of pleasure. The arrival of the mail-carrier, which is always an important event, and a troop of range horses in High-School Acts. The festivities are interrupted by an attack on the ranch by a band of Indians and they are repulsed by the cowboys, the scene of present happy ranch-home life is transposed into one of the old strenuous days by dramatic license to form a climax to the ending of the exhibition to permitting the Red and the White men to line up in compact friendly mass to effectively give the audience a FINAL SALUTE.

The Circus Doctor Talks About His Odd Patients

Mexico (Mo.) Evening Ledger, Friday Apr. 27, 1956

By L. M. (Mitch) White

"Mexico, Mo. That is where the great saddle horses come from," said Dr. J. Y. Henderson, of the Greatest Show on Earth. "That is also where the Tom Bass bit originated. I have never been there but when I was in school at the University of Texas, they bought horses in Mexico. Of course everyone knows Tom Bass and his greatest of all world champions, Belle Beach. She was a marvel."

The 700 animals at the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey winter quarters in Sarasota, Fla., are the responsibility of Dr. Henderson, chief veterinarian of the circus and his assistant Dr. W. Y. Higgins.

We visited Dr. Henderson and Dr. Higgins at their office where they were preparing to leave for New York and the beginning of the 1956 circus season in Madison Square Garden.

Dr. Henderson won fame in another field, when he wrote "Circus Doctor" as told to Richard Taplinger. This is a volume which is a must for every person interested in animals or the circus. It has been published by Little Brown at \$3.50 and also Bantam Books for 25 cents.

Dr. Henderson said that wild animals in captivity have about the same ailments as domesticated ones and are treated in much the same fashion.

They prescribe for them as for domestic animals. "If, for instance, a hippopotamus gets pneumonia, we treat generally as a farm veterinarian would treat a cow. If an antibiotic is called for, we allow for the difference in size in setting the dosage," he said.

"Circus horses, mules and ponies are vaccinated for sleeping sickness and shipping fever, the latter sometimes afflicting horses that are shipped thousands of miles every year."

All of the big cat family—lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, and others—get vaccinations against feline distemper. The veterinarians must watch for moldy hay because if horses eat it they may contract botulism, a disease affecting the brain.

All necessary surgery, except emergency operations are performed while the circus is in winter quarters. On the road, the day's work might include treating a tiger's clawed tail, dosing sick chimpanzees, dusting an elephant's inflamed cuticle, or worming a bear.

They watch the performing elephants carefully. If one bangs a foot on one of the heavy wooden tubs used in the acts, they examine the beast immediately after the act for a sign of injury. If an injury is treated quickly, the veterinarians can short circuit what could develop

into serious, costly ailments.

The big cats, the most terrifying of all animals are subject to sinus infection; the elephant's molars are as big as a man's hand and they can and do pull their own teeth.

Gargantua, the gorilla, is the most vicious animal ever in captivity and his own worst enemy because when you attempt to treat his ailments he refuses to go along and becomes more dangerous than usual, Dr. Henderson stated.

His job is a dangerous one. He has had to set the broken jaw of a lion, fill a bear's tooth, doctor a colicky camel, the greatest spitters in the world unless it might be the Llama, a member of the same family. He has had to cure a chimpanzee of pneumonia and amputate an alligator's foot. The life of circus doctor isn't without its thrills of a kind.

These comments of Dr. Henderson on the training and treatment of animals indicate some of the problems which face those in the circus world whose duties are in this unusual and dangerous field:

The safety of an animal trainer depends on their ability to keep the animals under control or to defend themselves in other ways against any animal out of control.

"Most trainers agree that the chief fault among trainers and the chief reason for their being hurt is that they become over-confident and are inclined to forget that their animals are still jungle creatures. The trainer who remembers this is always on his guard. The trainer who doesn't eventually get hurt or killed," he said.

The lion is the largest of the cats and not as fierce as people imagine. He is noisy but like noisy people usually friendly. He makes friends easily, is highly intelligent and if caught young can be taught tricks quickly. However trainers have been maimed and sometimes killed by him. A trainer must be alert every second he is in the cage with the animals. This is especially true when the mating season arrives in the Spring and Fall. Then even the most tractable animal may turn and attempt to destroy the trainer who normally he liked and cooperates docilely.

"An elephant's normal temperature is ninety-nine to a hundred degrees, but the temperature of the veterinarian taking it always shoots sky-high when he is trying to get a reading on an elephant. The Thermometer is about four inches long, but it is breakable; and it can be lost—I always tie a string to the one I am using so I can recover it. And when

ever the performance of temperature taking is necessary, I always like to have the elephant trainer handy," he continued.

The elephant, strictly vegetarian, has a small brain considering his size. Their average lifetime is 60 to 80 years. Sometimes their tusks weigh as much as 200 pounds. Both the elephants and rhinos have tender skins. The elephant pitches grass and dust on his back to keep bugs and flies from bothering him.

A large portion of the elephants tusks are removed when they join the circus so that if they should start trouble they would be less dangerous, state Dr. Henderson.

"A horse can be fed a laxative or any other medicine by means of a capsule. There's no trick at all to making a horse swallow such a capsule. This is not true of an elephant. An elephant's mouth can't be held open. His teeth are hard and strong and you can't take a chance on putting your hand in his mouth if you are making him do something he doesn't want to do. He won't swallow anything he doesn't want to swallow, and his tongue is so powerful that nothing can get past it if the elephant doesn't approve. All in all, he is a difficult patient."

In closing his book "Circus Doctor" we quote the following from Dr. Henderson:

"I have learned that the zebra is the animal I would least want to be attacked by. He is the one animal that cannot be defended against or fought off. When he bites his teeth remain closed and his jaws grind until there is nothing left of the thing he is biting. He is a wild, mean, powerful animal and is not just a horse with stripes.

"I have learned how even wild animals will respond to the proper kind of treatment, and that amazing attachments are often formed between human beings and presumably savage animals. But I have learned how foolish people can be in the chances they take with these animals; and also how foolish animals can be, in the chances they take with humans.

"I rate myself not only one of the luckiest animal doctors in America, but also the world's No. 1 circus fan."—L.M|W.

TRANSLATOR WANTED

From time to time we receive here at the Bandwagon, bulletins from European countries. One is printed in German and the other is in French. I can figure out enough French to know that there is certainly some material in them which would be of interest to our readers. The one in German has some photos in it, so that I can tell that it also would be interesting. Can any of our readers translate these? I thought that someone could look them over and translate an article here and there for publication in the Bandwagon. Let me know.

TALE OF WHEN CIRCUS CAME TO TAZEWELL IN '93

(Retold from The Roanoke Times, Dec., 12, 1948. Sent in by A. Robert Hall).

Tazewell, Virginia, December 11, 1948. This week's issue of the Clinch Valley News, Tazewell's weekly newspaper, publishes a letter received by Dr. J. W. Witten from Walter L. Main of Geneva, Ohio, which may bring much pleasure to the residents of the area remaining from the "Gay Nineties" period.

The letter was prompted by the article in the November issue of the Reader's Digest written by Dorothy Walcott in which she told the story of Dr. Witten's "Boys" and the great benefaction he is bestowing upon homeless boys and boys handicapped in obtaining an education.

The letter tells of the advance agent for Walter L. Main's Circus and his failure to secure tent space and show privilege in Bluefield, West Virginia, because of City ordinance. He telegraphed Main the circumstances and added that he had located a lot in Tazewell, Virginia 20 miles distant but that the town was too small.

His reply was, "If free license and lot, book it."

This was in the fall of 1893. The Norfolk & Western Railway ran excursion trains from Bluefield and Norton for the occasion, and the circus was exhibited under great handicaps in an over-crowded tent.

The event created great interest. The railroad yards could not accommodate the 31 over-length cars and the unloading had to be carried on at Pisgah, Tazewell and Burke's Garden. The excursion trains were packed to the last possible passenger, with Bluefield having the appearance of deserted city for the day.

The experience was repeated in 1904 when the season closed and the troupe disbanded here. In order to accommodate the show, personnel whose homes were all over, members of the road's general passenger agent's staff set up a temporary ticket office, and the late F. J. Miles, then local agent, probably handled the most diverse collection of express matter of his long experience.

One shipment was a pair of lions in an ordinary crate, other beasts and reptiles and such paraphanalia as only a circus would have to offer.

CIRCUS MATERIAL

John Harrop of Chicago suggests that some time if you are in Chicago and have a few hours to spare, you might stop at the Newberry Library at Walnut and Clark. You will find the Irving K. Pond Circus collection there. It is kept in the rare book room on the east end of the first floor. In order to see it you must first obtain a pass from the information desk on the second floor, which will admit you to the rare book room.

The collection is contained in three large boxes and was left to the library by Irving K. Pond. Mr. Pond was a well

known Chicago architect, author of a circus book, "Big Top Rhythum," a member of the C. F. A. and a member of the old John L. Davenport Tent (Chicago). One box contains copies of the early "White Tops," which you will find most interesting. The second box contains circus programs and heralds, some quite old, American, English, and European. The third box is a miscellaneous collection of route cards, old snap shots and photographs and the original drawings for the book "Big Top Rhythums." One large photograph that proved very interesting was the John L. Davenport riding act of 1889, showing both John L. and John L. Jr. This is the great rider for which the John L. Davenport Tent was named.

INFORMATION WANTED!

Willard "Tard" Northrop, of Corbettsville, New York is interested in some information on Billy Potter, an old time juggler. If you have any information on Billy Potter write to Tard. The following letter explains itself:

"Dear Friends:

"Back in 1907 Billy Potter was doing a comedy juggling act and he used this one in his advertising "Watch the Dates," gee, did he hop around to catch them. He closed a season with Sun Bros. Circus, at the Casino at 124 Street and 7th Avenue. I worked with him during the winter at a benefit. He told me at that time that the coming season, he had signed with Adam Forepaugh-Sells Bros. Circus.

"Bill was a school boy pal of mine, we lived on the West Side of Norwich, Conn. prior to this date. Billy used the pro name of Harding. Billy passed on some years ago in Sarasota, Florida. I write you this with the hope of borrowing a picture or any data relative to him and his younger brother."

"Tard"

J. M. Hale, c/o L. W. Freeman, 4 East 28th St., New York 16, N. Y. would like to know about the W. A. Gibbs Shows.

GREAT NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

(Sydney, Australia, April 5, 1957)

This is Easter time and never before has the city of Sydney seen such an array of circus talent within its bounds. The Royal Agricultural Society holds its six million dollar show for 10 days and nights at this time of the year and always, for six weeks, the city is attended by a circus, usually Wirth Bros. But on this occasion we have Wirth Bros. and Bullen Bros. who both claim to be Australia's largest circus and both are vieing for supremacy. In addition to these we have the film "Trapeze" showing at a city picture theatre and also Sole Bros. circus showing the suburbs, so between the lot of them there is what might be termed a circus war. It is difficult to get statistics and figures concerning the box offices of these shows. Its useless asking questions, the truth is not on every tongue. So to get facts one would have to spend many nights to find out for oneself how tickets are selling. This, to a poor hard working family man like myself, would not be practicable. However, as far as I can gather up to date the race is a dead heat and it will not be another three weeks when a cessation of hostilities takes place that I hope to learn which show is licking it's wools. Will tell you more at the end of the season.

Yours till the tents lose their glory,
Sid Baker

CORRECTION

In the February issue of the Bandwagon Lou Hayek asked for information on a circus wreck which took place near Tama, Iowa. We made a mistake in the date. This should have been 1890 instead of 1870. Sorry Lou.

Old Billboard Specials

1918 to 1929 — \$1.50 Each

1930 to 1945 — \$1.00 Each

Lou Hayek, Toledo, Iowa

VETERAN RODEO MAN DIES

(Furnished by Wm. T. Randolph)

Gladewater, Texas, April 11.—J. N. (Jack) Yates, 65, rodeo showman and manager at heart since his Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) youth when he rode saddle broncs for the Mulhall Ranch Wild West Show, today departed his friends made as a cowboy and cattleman and the past 25 years as a successful oil field supply dealer, and went to his great round-up. He died at home here after three months confinement to bed at local hospitals and at home. Burial was announced for 3 p. m. April 13 with funeral services at the First Baptist Church of Gladewater, which he attended more than any other though he contributed variously to every church which maintained a congregation in Gladewater.

Yates headed the non-profit Gladewater Round-Up Association 15 years, and retired to the chairmanship of the board three years ago. Principal activity of the association has been production of a community rodeo annually with an attendance near 20,000 each June, and encouragement of livestock and agricultural interests by annual dairy shows, quarter horse shows, etc.

As a first sergeant in an Oklahoma outfit in the AEF, Yates had full charge of producing the only major rodeo ever produced by the American Army in Europe after the close of World War I. His AEF Wild West Show toured hospitals and occupation cantonements in Europe for nearly two years after close of the war, traveling on its own special train.

Yates broke horses for the Mulhall Ranch near what is now Mulhall, Oklahoma, and went along as "bronc buster" when they toured their Wild West Show as a major competitor of the Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West.

With indication in the early 1930's that the East Texas Oil Field would be the world's greatest up to that time, Yates opened a small oil field supply store near Gladewater and prospered, being credited the past ten years with having the largest oil field supply business in America owned by only one man.

Prosperity in business enabled Yates to devote 30 to 60 days annually to his lifelong hobby of big game hunting. He was interested only in North American game, and had mounted trophies, many lifesize, of every major animal or bird from Mexico to the Arctic. He particularly liked hunting the huge brown bears of Kodiak Island, off Alaska, and a lifesize one mounted in rearing position faces everyone who visits the private free museum he maintained the past 12 years between his business and his residence facing U. S. Highway 80 in the east part of Gladewater. Pelts, skulls, claws, hoofs, or lifesize mountings of some 160 major game trophies are in his museum, and many barber shops of East Texas have on their walls the "surplus" mounted heads for which Yates no longer had space in his museum.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Sue Yates, Gladewater; two daughters, Mrs. Nathan B. Lamb, Midland, Texas, and Miss Beatrice Yates, Dallas; two brothers and three grandchildren. His mother, a full-blood Indian, died only six years ago.

EXCERPT FROM WALLY AHLBERG'S APRIL "CIRCUS GOSSIP" LETTER

On Thursday night, June 25, 1908, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train was wrecked at the foot of Chestnut Street in St. Paul, Minn. Eight people were seriously injured and 20 slightly. It was the first section with two coaches with 100 men, two cook wagons, seat wagons, water wagons, etc. Circus was going through St. Paul from New Richmond, Wisconsin, going to Mankato, Minnesota, and moving slowly into the siding when a heavy freight came bearing down the grade, struck the circus in the middle, cutting off four flat cars and the sleepers almost telescoped. Fire started in front of the sleepers but was extinguished by firemen who then helped police remove the injured. Fortunately no animals were on this section. A string of Chicago, Great Western cars were backed in to reload what circus escaped destruction. James Davis was in charge of the train. Owners of the show and performers and animals were in the following section. Damage to the circus equipment was extensive.

The ponderous elephant walks more lightly than the stealthy tiger. This was proven with a General Electric vibration meter. The vibrator was placed on the ground within a few feet of the path along which the animals trod in a special test. Of those tested only an 8 foot python traveled more lightly than the padded foot elephant. Lion, Hippo, Tiger, Polar Bear, Llama and Giraffe all were heavier on their feet.

1957 Convention

As we go to press, we are happy to tell you that the 1957 Convention will be held

August 9, 10, 11

The place we cannot tell you now, for we have suffered a low blow in the past two days and all the plans we had made have had to be changed. Even the dates had to be changed. However in the next few days we will know where the convention will be, and will inform you at once.

Keep these date open in your plans for a vacation or your plans for the summer. You will enjoy being with us, and we will surely enjoy having you there

Remember the Dates — August 9, 10, 11!